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Washington, D. C.-Ebbitt House, Pennsyl-OREGONIAN, MONDAY, JANUARY 15.

"RIDERS" IN THE TAX BILL.

Objections to the tax code proposed by the tax committee of the Willamette Valley Development League seem to be based more upon the manner in which the measure is drawn than upon any particular obnoxious feature. The original purpose in directing that the bill be drawn was to provide for the taxation of franchises and intangible property. Instead of adhering to the plan outlined, the committee undertook to revise many tax laws, and has introduced many changes upon which men will inevitably differ. The committee has, in other words, pursued the old and indefensible policy of putting "riders" on their bill, which riders the people must adopt or reject, along with the more important features.

The bill proposes certain taxes upon the gross earnings of express, telegraph and telephone companies, and a new system of taxing railroad property. Let us take this as the main purpose of the measure. Instead of confining the bill to that subject, the committee inserted changes in the manner of making the school tax levy, changes in the rate of tax on insurance companies, changes in the rate of inheritance tax, changes in the manner of making the annual apportionment of the state tax. These latter subjects are no less important than the former, and each proposed change should stand or fall upon its own individual merits. There was no reason whatever why they should tax bill. But as the bill is presented before the people, it must be adopted act the law for the taxation of telephone and telegraph companies, the people must change the law governing school tax levies. Nothing could be

more absurd. For years the people of this state have been crying out against the practice of forcing legislation by means of "riders." At the present time a million-dollar appropriation bill is being held up under the referendum as a protest against the practice of passing omnibus bills. Yet the tax committee of League has adopted that same old pernicious policy of legislation, and it requires the people to accept laws they do not want, if they adopt this measure, in order to get what they do want. It is not necessary to discuss the

merits of any particular section of the proposed bill. Let it be acknowledged that the main purpose is good. The Oregonian, and the people of the state, favor a law which will compel corporations owning certain classes of intangible property to bear their just proportion of the tax burden, but in accomplishing this there should not be attached to a proposed bill upon that subject numerous other measures of questionable policy. Measures to be submitted to a vote of the people should be so drawn that no man will be compelled to vote for what he does not want in order to promote reforms that commend themselves to his favor. Until full investigation and examination shall disclose all the defects of this measure, and shall show if they are as serious as they now appear to be, The Oregonian will reserve final judgment as to whether in its opinion it should be adopted or rejected.

THE DEFEAT OF MR. BALFOUR.

That the recent Prime Minister of England, and present leader of the Opposition, should be defeated-not by a close vote, but snowed under-in his own constituency, cannot pass without

East Manchester has stood by Mr. Balfour for years. That a man named Horridge-up to this time a blank in British politics-should so completely put down and out one who has headed the government for so long, is more than surprising-it is phenomenal.

But reasons are not far to seek. The times for a Laodicean are past. This adroit politician, this irresolute and fine drawing statesman, is spewed out of the mouth of the electorate he deemed was his own preserve. What fall! To be beaten by Chamberlain, or Asquith, or Morley, or Grey, or even by Winston Churchill, the coming man of his party-this might be to fall in fair fight; but to succumb to Horridge This man's policy was what the Englishman calls neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring, and the average man will have none of it.

Now shall we see how Joseph Champerlain, the fighter, the aggressive and strong man, fares at Birmingham. The

how the cities are going. Manchester has spoken. What will Birmingham

GRAFT IN CONGRESS? Mr. Steffens starts well. He is going to let us know specifically a few things about affairs at Washington that we already know generally, but no less certainly. He is not on a hunt for the grafters. He knows who they are. Everybody knows. The country has been so thoroughly educated on the subject of graft that the plain, everyday citizen can put this and that to gether as convincingly as the trained investigator, and, turning his mind's eye to this, or that, or the other dishonest public official, can convince him self unerringly that "there stands a He doesn't need proof in black and white. He merely watches for symptoms and results; and when the result is at hand, it is easy to find the cause. What Mr.' Steffens has set out to do is to expose neither graft nor grafters, but to learn why the grafter did it. That will be interesting, indeed. But we fear that Mr. Steffens makes

a rather sweeping definition of bribery and corruption. "Cash bribery," he says, "is the least dangerous form of cor ruption. Offices, promotion, committees, stock tips, business, campaign contributions, social position, dinners these and such as these are the higher, subtler, more respectable, and, therefore, the more dangerous forms of political corruption." No doubt. there is a proper employment for many of these things, else there would be no social life at Washington, and every Congressman would be at war with every other, and chaos would ensue. We do not suppose that Mr. Steffens will advance the theory, or principle that no member of Congress should be subject to influence, even social or business influence. Everything depends on whether his motives, and the motives of his advisers, are good. It would be idle to say that legislation of immense value has not been adopted sometimes even by doubtful means. The National debt was funded by Secretary Hamilton, and the credit of the United States established, through a trade with Jobbers in Congress who were trying to locate the National capital; and the impeachment of Andrew Johnson was prevented by a single vote, obtained, it is believed everywhere, by

questionable strategy. But Mr. Steffens is on the right track. He is not going to show where the graft came from, nor whom it came to, but why it came. We all want to know,

GETTING AWAY FROM WHEAT.

The farmers of Whitman and Garfield Counties, in Washington, are considering the proposition of planting 6000 acres of sugar beets along the line of the Spokane & Inland electric road now under construction. As the great factory at Waverly has never, since its construction, been able to secure onehalf the amount of beets required to run it up to its capacity, the management is making beet culture of special interest to the farmers by paying \$6 per ton for beets, an advance of 75 cents per ton over present rates. By offering this premium, the owners of the factory hope to have farmers demonstrate to their own satisfaction that the beet crop can be made more remunerative At a farmers' meeting held in Garfield Saturday, some wheatgrowers who had been experimenting with the beets announced that, at \$5.23 per ton, their beet crop had paid a profit of \$5 per acre in excess of the amount that they could make with a

crop of wheat on the same land. Of even greater importance was the statement made at the meeting that Summer-fallow land planted in beets would grow a much larger crop of wheat when the cereal was sown a year later. Although Summer-fallowing has been the only practical method of growing wheat in the country cast of the Cascade Mountains, the fact that the land must lie idle one year out of two has never been pleasing to farm-In effect, it has cut down the yield per acre of their farms one-half. and in a great many cases, where methods were a little slack, such a large crop of weeds was produced on the Summer-fallow land that the soil was nearly as badly exhausted as if it had been cropped with wheat. The showing made by the beet-sugar makers and the beetgrowers was so satisfactory that even Wheat King McCroskey, who has steadily refused to make the slightest concession to the diversified farming theory, is said to be contemplating planting 100 acres as an experiment.

If this new industry is the means of lifting the wheatgrowers out of the rut into which they have fallen with their one-crop ideas, it will be well worth all that the State of Washington has paid for its establishment. There is unimpeachabe testimolny from growers wherever beets have been produced in the West, to the effect that there is profit in the crop for growers, and factories, even laboring under the handicap of an insufficient supply of raw material, have suffered no heavy losses It is stated that the Waverly factory, to which the beets of Whitman and Garfield Countles would be tributary, has a capacity of 50,000 tons of beets per year, but has pever yet succeeded in securing more than 20,000 tons. With all of their money invested in the plant, against which there are large fixed charges whether it runs or not, it is easy to understand that the profits to both grower and manufacturer could be greatly increased on every addiwhich to this date has been the maxi-

The consumption of sugar in the United States is increasing much more rapidly than the production, and there will accordingly be a good market for all that can be produced. There is accordingly small likelihood of an overproduction and recession of prices to an unprofitable figure. The extent to which consumption is increasing is iljustrated in a late bulletin of the Department of Commerce, which shows that, while the annual average portation during the five-year period ending with 1885 was 1,031,149 tons, for the five years ending with 1905, average was 2,196,043 tons, and the home production increased from 176,035

tons in 1885 to 600,000 tons in 1905. Eastern Washington wheatgrowers are making a move toward locking the stabel door before the horse is stolen. The Willamette Valley farmers in some cases hung onto wheat production until it sent them over the hills to the orhouse. The Valley was not adapted to best culture, but exhaustion of the soil by continuous cropping with wheat has at last forced them into di-

livestock and garden truck of a greater value than the combined wheat crop of half a dozen townships in the most prosperous year of their existence.

POLITICIANS AND NEWSPAPERS.

The country editor has come to learn that the public always accepts him at his own valuation. Journalism is both a business and a profession. So far as it sells news as a commodity, it is a business; so far as it endeavors to direct public opinion and to influence public action, it is a profession. It is an honest business to sell news; it is an honest profession to mold public sentiment, if it is honestly done. The average country editor is not always sure of his own status, because of the uncertain status of his calling. Some country editors look upon themselves as semi-public charges, like many country preachers, and subsist largely on donations made through the good nature and the charity of their patrons or neighbors. This type, we hasten to add, is rapidly disappearing from the country press. If weekly journalism has not so high a place in the respect of its readers or the confidence of its advertisers as the country editor thinks it should have, it is entirely because he has failed to take himself and his business or profession seriously, and he has accepted a place in the general estimation alongside the village joker, the corner-grocery orator and the street-corner gossip.

The Oregon Press Association is doing much to elevate the standard of journalism in the state, and it is setting an example in independence, selfrespect and character that may well be followed in neighboring states. For example, the papers in the organization have united in a common plan to sell their space to foreign advertisers at proper rates, which is a good thing; but, what is better, they have determined that the advertising and exploitation which the politicians are ever seeking and usually getting shall be paid for as advertising. Newspapers have an intimate and inescapable relation to politics, and on that account they have ever been used as vehicles to promote the welfare of officeseekers and officeholders. Under the direct primary, the profession of officeholding becomes more than ever an individual and personal matter with the officehunter, and the average newspaper, city and country, will be more and more subject to the importunities of the persistent man-after-a-job for notice and commendation. It is a perfectly proper thing to require pay for such notice outside, of course, of current political news or gossip; it is essentially dishonest to accept pay for commendation. The distinction clear. All newspapers understand it: the public understands it. There is no chance or excuse for anybody to be deceived about it. The Press Association made it all plain by adoption of the following resolution;

In the matter of political advertising, w. n the same basis that it is sold to commer cial advertisers, no contract for advertising carrying with it an express or implied obli-gation binding the paper to the support of

such candidate. The Oregon Press Association-the country editor-is now definitely committed to this correct policy. Any person who seeks advertising shall pay for it. Any person who seeks newspaper favor on that basis won't get it. All this is good for the candidates, too. For example, when any officeseeker is approached with a proposition to pay \$100, or \$200, or \$600, or even \$800, to a newspaper for advertising, it is proper for him to inquire what kind of advertising, who is to write the advertisements, and whether editorial support commendation goes with it? If he does not get editorial support, he will then know whether or not he really desires so much advertising-in that kind of a paper; and, if he is to get it. he will understand that the newspaper is violating its solemn and formal obligation to all other papers in the Oregon Press Association. No doubt all the others will do everything in their power to heap on the venal journal all the odium it deserves. We hope so We think so. Next year, if there is reason to think that any new-paper has thus violated the high ethics of real journalism, and broken faith with its fellow-journals and with the public, we shall expect to see an investigating committee appointed by the association, with authority to ascertain the facts, and to make them public.

A MISLEADING REPORT.

Special Agent Crist, of the Depart ment of Commerce and Labor, has returned from the Orient with a report that merchandise shipped by transcontinental and Pacific routes cannot come into successful competition in the Orient with like commodities coming by the all-stater route from European countries. He says that we will be at a disadvantage "until steamship lines regularly ply between Atlantic ports and North China as English and German lines are now doing." If Mr. Crist has been correctly quoted in the Washington dispatches, there is urgent necessity for reform in other departments than the consular service. Had this special agent been endowed with sufficient intelligence to investigate properly the sub ject on which he has reported, would have learned that the rates made by the transcontinental and Pacific roads are all based on the rates mad by steamers "plying regularly between the Atlantic ports and North China, as well as to other ports in the Orient. The special agent would also have learned that there is constant friction between the British manufacturers and the British shipowners, because the latter for the greater part of the time ar quoting lower rates to New York mer chants than they will quote to those doing business in London and Liver pool. Nearly a dozen large steamship will sail from Atlantic ports for the Orient this month, and, if the trans-continental roads did not make rates as low comparatively as those made by the steamers, there would be twice as many going forward by the Suez route. The report of this special agent will undoubtedly be eagerly seized by the subsidy-seekers and warped into an ar gument in favor of extending aid to our poverty-stricken millionaire ship-If Special Agent Crist had reported

correctly the reasons for the American

being at a disadvantage with his for

eign rivals, he would have stated that

under our beneficent system of protec-

tion to the trusts, we are selling great

quantities of steel and other manufac

turing material to the Europeans at

across the water have no need of concessions in transportation facilities to the Far East, and they are receiving

The "Force of Life" bunco artists have by their work proved themselves past masters in the art of guilling the public." Some illiterate but expressive philosopher once put into circulation the coarse but truthful proverb that "there is a sucker born every minute." The anglers for this class of "fish" are not so plentiful as the "suckers," but when they angle, they make wholesale catches. 'I stop the rush with which Father Time hurries you to the grave." said Professor Hadley, in an advertisement of his elixir of life. The cruel Government employes who investigated the matter concluded, however, that he only stopped the rush long enough to enable him to go through the pockets of the "rushers." The science of healing, no matter what form it takes, has been one of the most prollfic sources of revenue for fakirs of both sexes "Doctor" Hadley differs from some of the others in that he put out a fake

medicine instead of a prayer-book and

a treatise denying the existence of dis-

ease. He got the money, though, and

so do the other "healers."

The amassination of ex-Governor Steunenberg was deliberately planned and was executed with a strict attention to detail which proves that it was the work of a man or men who were fully as crafty and cunning as they were merciless and bloodthirsty. With this knowledge of the character of the criminal or criminals so apparent, there is more than a shade of possibility that the man now under arrest might have been conveniently "placed" at Caldwell for the purpose of being arrested and tried while the real murderer was making his escape. A number of dummies of this nature were put forward for arrest while the police were searching for the murderer of Dr. Cronin in Chicago many years ago. Some of these dummies found their way to the penitentlary for their connection with the crime, but the murderer was never caught. It would seem from the testisony that Orchard was in a perilous position even though it be proven that he did not actually commit the murder

The basis of the pilots' objection to the Northern Pacific bridge at St. Johns is the narrowness of the channel between the proposed site of the bridge and the foot of Swan Island. It is quite plain that a 500-foot ship in a current is liable to trouble in a 309-foot channel if it becomes necessary to stop he until a train gets off the drawbridge A remedy for the anticipated trouble might be found in widening the channel between Swan Island and the bridge. The land behind the adjacent bank on the west side is nearly all quite low, and it would be advantageous to both river and shore to have a wide, deep channel dredged.

The New York banks gained over \$15,600,000 in cash last week, nearly all of it being shipped to the metropolis by the interior banks. There were also more investment buying of stocks in Wall street and easier rates on money. The signs would indicate that the immediate danger of serious financial trouble in New York had passed. Nevertheless, the stock market is still keyed up to a pretty high pitch, and might not stand too severe a test without causing a grand smash among the devotees of frenzied finance.

The Washington Post expresses the opinion that "Oregon, after her bitter experience, will take pains to send to Congress a delegation that will reflect credit on the state." We really haven't ione much to give any one in Washing ton so optimistic a view of Oregon, but we're grateful to the Post, just the same. And we'll try; really, we'll try.

ber of the beef trust that he had served a jail sentence forty years ago for defrauding the Government is of interest merely as showing the difference in the handling of mest magnates by the courts then and now. It can scarcely lower his social standing in packinghouse circles

One aspirant for a nomination for a high office announces that he "stands for the people and against bosses, politicians, trusts and grafters." This is a platform that has been common to all candidates, time out of mind. Who ever heard of any one favoring either a boss or a politician?

People who are worrying over the threatened expose of Tom Richards' "botel" will find comfort in reading the "chapters that have gone before in Tom Lawson's "Frenzied Finance. recalling the fact that they were the most sensational part of that famous narrative.

While Mayor Lane's pollcemen are dragging rich and respectable citizens into the Police Court and holding them under cash ball for obstructing the sidewalks, the man behind the sixshooter continues to block traffic on the back streets unmolested.

The candidate for office and all his friends are abroad with petitions to ket under the trees, and there slept soundbe signed, and voters are everywhere by until daylight and the singing of birds held up. All such must remember that patience is a virtue. We are giving the direct primary a fair trial.

"Constant Reader" heed not worry. The subscriber who brings in a box of big, red apples or a load of cordwood will get his name in the paper just the same as he did before the Oregon editors formed their advertising rate combination.

The East Davis-street gas meter which continued to pile up dividends for the company eight days after it was disconnected from the main seems to have rejoiced in more lives than a "Show me," said Missouri to the jolly

Rogers. "How old is Ann?" was the

witty reply. But it looks as if the

Supreme Court will help show Rogers the real way to show Missouri. Seattle is endeavoring to raise \$25,000 to get the National Christian Endeavorers' convention. It will be worth \$25. 960 to Seattle to find out who and what

the Endeavorers are. The job of sitting on the Hill-Harriman ild will no doubt help some to still Sheriff Word's wild ambition to keep something closed.

Midshipman Meriwether may find lower figures than they can be obtained by Americans. With cheap raw mathat he is in real trouble this time. He two great cities stand next to the me-tropolis in men's minds, when asking many townships in the Valley that are for manufacturing it, our neighbors lived.

THE SILVER LINING.

The man who does a little less than is expected of him is the dangerous factor in all business. Give a hundred and one cents' worth of value for every dollar you receive.

What is the finest quality in human character? Is it not truthfulness? The youth that is taught to speak the truth cannot but be honest, brave, self-respecting, ultimately capable. The man or the woman who speaks the truth cannot but have friends and love and renuine success-for, in a world of lies and evasions such an one is as a rock in the midst of a quicksand.

Newsboys, politicians, Bruin's pals, edi tors, ministers, Hill, Harriman, Rogers, Morton and Ananias, please digest this nugget

When Bruin told a woman criminal that there was a price on her head, she asked him if it was on straight, and now he is scratching his own head trying to find out what she meant. That's straight.

Miss Grover, an enthusiast about feines and blooded tabbies, has just gotten herself into a peck of trouble by sending a Judge two \$5 bills in supplica tion that her beloved cat, which was then in custody, might be protected, and the learned incumbent of the bench be inspired by the wisdom of Solomon in his decision of the case in hand. The Judge got mad as hops at the woman, and she explained that she only posed that it was his usual fee, It is needless to add that this idea of universal graft occurred in New York. There is also no accounting for woman's love for cats. A scratch is a scratch, and a woman is a woman, but, in the words of the Illustrious General, "cats is hell."

Some success is born of conceit and much conceit is born of success.

The average American woman has the voice of a peacock.

Advertisement.-All the Eastern 5-cent Sunday newspapers can be had at any Portland news-stand for 10 cents a copy. We watched an Eastern astrologer's

prediction, and this is the record: PROPHECY. "An appaling catastrophe will take place in New York City, or some city in the United States, on December 14, in

which there will be heavy loss of life." FACT. Nothing doing. Nearest approach to an appalling catastrophe about that time was on January 12, when Rogers testified.

No loss of life. Brains and character are undoubtedly better than money. But when you consider these three singly and separately, perhaps a fairly generous helping of each vould be most desirable. Of course, midnight tollers in newspaper palaces have so much of everything that they can view the whole matter from a lofty and disinterested standpoint.

Poise is the ambition of every man wh seeks to meet successfully the contending forces within and around him. It is the practical outward expression of true phisophy.

The pathology of football is thus summed up by the surgeons: Teno-synovitis tendo-Achilles, disloca-

tion of the xiphoid cartilage, dislocated semilunar cartilage, traumatic valgus fracture of the zygoma, dislocation of acromial end clavicle, middle miningea hemorrhage, hematoma of the ear. We heartfly concur with the doctors in the assertion that the "pile-up" is where the most and the worst injuries are received. As for the thundering Latin, a cold in the head can be called blennorrhoea nasalis. Give the surgeons ten days each and call the next case.

Oh, say, What's happened down Kentucky way? What's the matter with the Colon Don't they know enough to know That their state's not in the Senate If she hasn't got her Joe? Who can talk as Joe can talk? Who can tell so many stories? Who can be Kentucky's pride? Who can thunder forth her glories? Who can do the statesman stunt Just as Joe has always done it? Where's Kentucky in the purh. If her Joe ain't there to run it?

What's happened down Kentucky way? What makes the Colonels all so sad? Hear them singing sweet and low, Like a solemn requ

Joe."

It is related that a Columbia River logger went to a Portland hotel to get a room, and left in disgust because he was assigned to a room provided with a feather bed. He was accustomed to sleeping on a "bunk." with only a blanket under him. This recalls a story that has often been told, but never published heretofore concerning the late H. S. Lyman, the historian and educator. Lyman believed it wise to accustom himself to hardships, so that when circumstances made it necesmary he could endure without discomfort what would be very disagreeable to others. It is said that very frequently at his home or at hotels he would leave his bed unoccupied and sleep upon the bare floor in order to harden himself to such accommodations. When visiting his ranch on Clatsop Plains, he refused the shelter of his cabin at night, but spread a blanawoke him.

One King They Didn't Know.

Fairbanks (Alaska) News.
CHRISTIANA, Dec. 2.—King Haakon has taken the oath before Parliament.
This is offered here as a semple of the news service that is vouchsafed us. It is the first we ever heard of King Haakon since somewhere back in the middle ages. We had not been told that King Haakon was so much as talked of for the throne of Norway. The last man spoken of in of Norway. The last man spoken of in connection with the Norwegian crown was Prince Charles, of Sweden. Sons of Sweden and of Norway alike have been awaiting the further proceedings with in-terest tempered with patience, and out of the void comes this intelligence that "King Huakon has taken the oath." It is enough to make us all take an oath or two. The News has inquired of a num-her of more of the several Scandinavian ber of sons of the several Scandinavial families, but no one knows King Haakon

Watterson's Opinion of Kentucky.

Hear Colonel Watterson on present p itical conditions down in Kentucky. Never has Kentucky touched so low Never has Kentucky touched so low a point, nor have Kentuckians heard such shocking tales of brutality and wrong in our elections, in our political machinery and in the public service. Not one single Kentuckian in the public life of the Nation stands high enough to be seen of all men. Not one single issue of Kentucky origination is to be found upon the fighting line of public affairs. We seem to have fallen back upon a time when it was said that the only world-famous

was said that the only world-famous Kentuckian was a horse. This looks like a rather ambiguous compilment to the Goebel man who has

GAS AND THE PEOPLE.

Portland Advertiser. And now it's the Portland Gas Company. Portland people are possibly unaware of the distinction which is being thrust upon them, for soon must this gas company, continually enlarging the grasp of its tentacles and waxing fat upon its grafted spoil, be ranked along with the Standard Oll and the Beef Trust.

Starting on their career of Lawsonia

money-getting, the first price removed from the pockets of the meek and docile householder is the \$5 deposit for the ter. Five dollars is the minimum deposibut in some cases the deposit is \$50. Now, in all sense, why should a gas consumer deposit anything for a meter? It belongs to the gas company; nobody else has any use for it, and it being placed in the have a means of measuring the amount o gas consumed. The man who brings milk might as well charge toll for his quart measure, the butcher for his scales, or the merchant for his yardstick. The ney deposited goes to the company, i held by them so long as the meter is used, and refunded, without interest, of course. But it's been bringing interest to the gas company, this money of yours, mine and the other fellow-6, 8 or 10 per cent in clear gain-for a space of one year, pos sibly three years; money to which they have no more legal right than a highwayman. Talk about railroad rebates! the meter deposit walks clear ahead of the whole procession.

Next in the bold scheme of robbery the imperfect plumbing by which gas es-capes continually, the meter, of course, recording the leakage along with the actual consumption of gas.

The gas leakage is the main point of

issue, though, of course, one must not for

get that the service is miserable and the price robbery; that patrons pay for air and not gas; that bills increase steadily from month to month; that Mrs. B.'s gas bill remains each month at a fixed price because the company found out just how much Mrs. B. will stand for: that though Mrs. D. cooks with gas, her bill is no larger than that of Mrs. A., who uses it only for lighting, and that as economically as possible, but then Mrs. D. is such a vigorous kicker the boys kn much not to charge. And, too, when you go to pay the bill you are reminded of the ancient Byzantine Empress whose subjects crept to her august presence upon their knees and saluted her royal big toe with a kiss of fealty and homage. You enter the office, fall in line with some several dozen other lambs gone to the shearing, and wait and wait your turn to pay what you owe-and then so course, it's too much to expect the comto open more than one pigeon-hole at a time, so you stand there and lister to some 25 people before you register their kicks; you look at 25 hopeful, but Impa tient, victims behind you, and by time it's your turn you are only too willing to put up the coin, glad it isn't any more, and make a get-sway.

Talk about populism, Socialism, co-op-eration and Government ownership-the real wonder is that the American people en masse don't turn anarchist!

Portland New Age. The Oregonian is to be commended and ongratulated for its fight for cheaper and better gas. The people of this city have been treated outrageously in the matter of gas, both as to price and quality, and it is quite time a general and rous "kick" was made against present

We hope The Oregonian will keep up its "lick" until we get better and cheaper gas. If we can't, people had better rely on electricity, or even go back to candles and peat. They ought unanimously to reto be swindled by the gas company

THE GREAT TRACTION MERGER

A Great Belmont-Ryan Stock-Job bing Scheme, Remindful of 1901.

New York Outlook. We reported last week the purchase of the surface railways of New York City jovial nose, after a two-weeks visit down elevated and subway systems. This trans-action proves to be rather a merger of the two, and is founded on a stock-water-ing operation of gigantic proportions. The figures are thus given by the New York Evening Post, the comments of which are the more significant since no one will suspect that journal of anti-capitalistic

The full plan of combination of the Bel-mont and Ryan traction interests is now before us. It contemplates turning the present \$20,000,000 Interborough stock into \$70,000,000 bonds, with a "bonus" of \$31,500,000 in new stock; converting the \$52,000,000 standing Metropolitan Street Railway stock into \$75,000,000 new stock, and buying up the stock of the eld "holding company" with stock of a new one. This is, clearly enough, a stock-watering plan on the scale of 1901. We are not likely to hear again very soon the assertion which the Subway's financial managers have been wont to mak with pride, that here at least is a railway enterprise in which capital inflation has played no part. The new plan, if carried out successfully, will change all that, and watering the stock of the Elevated Railway We naturally turn to the New York Times to find what defense there is for this stock-watering operation. Its de-fense is mainly silence; perhaps it re-gards the figures as part of the news not "fit to print"; the only editorial refer-ence we find to it is in the following sentence: "It must be plain to every man's understanding that the capitalization of the new concern is based on an expecta-tion of largely increased business-of

Ten Fortunes \$2,000,000,000.

Harper's Weekly.

Today it is computed that there are in the United States no fewer than 20 estates that average in value \$35,000,000 each. There are ten private fortunes aggregating \$2,000,000,000 et al. D. Rockefeller. Andrew Carnegie, Marshall Field, W. K. Vanderbilt, John Jacob Astor. J. P. Morgan, Russell Sage, J. J. Hill, Senator W. A. Clark, and William Rockefeller. There are 600 fortunes aggregating \$3,000,000,000, and 4500 aggregating \$10,000,000,000. Five thousand men ting \$19,000,000,000. Five thousand men in this country, whose aggregate wealth is estimated at \$15,000,000,000, actually own, to say nothing of how much they control, nearly one-sixth of our entire national wealth in money, land, mines, buildings, industries, franchises and everything else of value: which sixth if put into gold, would give them all of the rellow metal above ground in the world and leave more than \$9,000,000,000 still owing them.

Emerson.

What builds the nation's pillars high
And its foundations strong?

What makes it mighty to defy
The foss that 'round it throng?

It is not gold. Its kingdoms grand Go down in battle's shock: Its shafts are laid on sinking sand, Not on abiding rock.

Is it the sword? Ask the red dust Of empires passed away; The blood has turned their stones to rus Their glory to decay.

And is it pride? Ah! that bright crown Has seemed to nations sweet; But God has struck its luster down In ashes at his feet.

Not gold, but only man, can make A people great and strong; Men who, for truth and honor's sake, Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep, Who dare while others fly— They build a nation's pillars deep And lift them to the sky,

DEPEW'S DIRECTORATES.

New York Evening Sun, Senator Depew says that the statement relative to his retirement on his 724 birthday from the companies with which he is at present associated is misleading in that it omits to mention the fact that his purpose is to retain his position with the Vanderbilt lines, which he explains is largely honorary, and which will not pre-vent him devoting full attention to his

duties in the Senate.

These are principal companies of which Depew is trustee or director:

American Safe Deposit Company.

American Surety Company.

The Bagdad-Chase Gold Mining Company. Bagdad Mining & Milling Company. Peech Creek Railroad Company. Benjamin Chase Gold Mining Company. Brooklyn Warehouse and Storage Company. Buffalo, Erie Basin Railroad Company.

Buffalo, Thousand Isles & Portland Railcand Company.

Canada Southern Bridge Company.

Canada Southern Railway Company.

Carthage & Adfrondack Railway.

Carthage, Watertown & Sacket's Harbor

ailroad Company. Central Dock & Terminal Company. Chempeake & Ohio Railway Cor Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company. Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha taliway Company. Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation

Clearwa'nr and Raquette Lake Railroad, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. L. Columbus, Hope & Greensburg Ratiroad.

Delaware & Hudson Company. Dunkirk, Alleghany Valley & Pittsburg Raii-Equitable Life Assurance Society (resignation already handed in, but not yet acted

Fifth Avenue Trust Company. Fonds, Johnstown & Gloversville Railroad. Fulton Chain Rallway Company.

Fulton Navigation Company.

Gouverneur & Oswegatchie Railroad Com-Jersey City & Bayonne Railroad Company,

Kensico cemetery. Lake Erie, Alliance & Wheeling Railroad. Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad Mahoning Coal Railroad Company. Mercantile Trust Company (a subsidiary

mpany of the Equitable). Merchants' Dispatch Transportation Com-Michigan Central Railroad Company.

Michigan, Midland & Canada Railroad Com-National Bank of Commerce (a subsidiary

of the Mutual Life). National Surety Company. New Jersey Junction Railroad Company. New Jersey Short Line Railroad Company.

New York & Ottawa Railway New York & Harlem Rattroad Company. New York & Putnam Rattroad. New York Central Niagara River Bailroad

New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad New York State Realty & Terminal Com-

Niagara Falls Branch Railroad. Niagara Grand Island Bridge Company. Norfolk & Southern Railroad Company. Oswego & Rome Railroad Company Pine Creek Railway Company. Raquette Lake Railway Company.

Watertown & Ogdensburg Railroad ompany Rutland Railroad Company, St. Lawrence & Adirondack Railroad Com-

Spuyten, Duyyil & Port Morris Batiway Company. Standard Trust Company. Syracuse, Geneva & Corning Railway Com-

Terminal Railway of Buffalo. Tivoli Hollow Railroad, Toledo, Canada Southern & Detroit Railray Company. Toluca Electric Light & Power Company.

Union Trust Company of New York. Utica & Black River Railroad. Walkill Valley Railroad Company, West Shore Railroad. Vestern Transit Company. Western Union Telegraph Company. Yale University.

THINGS DOING IN OREGON.

Back Again With Nose Before Him.

Starbuck Star. making the fur fly.

Rib Broken by a Warehouse.

Nyssa News Mr. Snow, who had a rib broke Christ-mas as the result of a portion of the Forwarding Company's warehouse breaking

What Lockwood's Pig Can Do.

Enterprise Chieftain C. M. Lockwood has a pig that has the distinction of being the only one in Enter-prise that can jump down a well 29 feet deep and be hauled out without being hurt a particle. This extraordinary stunt was performed by this extraordinary pig Tuesday morning.

Strictly Business on a Toll Road.

Tillamook Headlight, V. A. W. Schiappi was held up on the Wilson River road by a little girl, and sha made him dig up 50c. This is the receipt the little girl gave him for holding

Received of V. A. W. Schiappi 50c, for the purpose of riding a horse up the Wilson River on the public county road. Agent for the Toll Road Compan WESLEY RUSH

Ninety-Two Danced, One Drunk.

Pilot Rock Record.

As an indication of the strenuousness of country life it may be mentioned that %3 numbers were sold for the dance at Pilot Rock Monday night. The atmosphere of the old hall was heavy with dust and foul odors, but the gay costumers tripped the light fantastic until daylight. There was some money left in the old town as a resuit of the dance. The two saloons took in \$500; \$52 were paid for tickets, and about \$80 for supper. One young man under age, was arrested for being drunk, which is a good showing, considering the amount of 'booze' sold.

Why Not? Before we discover the North Pole in an airship hadn't we better first discover an airship?—Louisville Courier-Journal

NEWSPAPER WAIFS.

Her—"Were you ever in love" Him-e
"Tes." Her—"And are you still in that
blissful condition?" Him—"Oh, no. I'm
married now."—Chicago Daily News.
"Pop!" "Tes, my son." "What is it a
man loces and then can't tell you what it is
until he finds it!" "I really don't know, my
hoy." "Why, his breath!"—Yonkers Statesman.

man.

Misguided Waits (of siender repertoire, but vast persistence)—Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel! Saturnine Householder—"Ian't there? If I come down to you I'll make you alter your opinion!"—Punch.

opinion: "Funca. Hostess" And do you really believe in Christian Science" Visitor—"Well, you see. I've been getting rather stout lately, and it's such a comfort to know that I really have no body!"—Punch. Mrs. Kraichett—"Bridget, I don't like the looks of that man who called to see you last night." Bridget—Well, well, ain't it funny, ma'am? He said the same about you."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Johnnie—"Pa. won't you please buy me microbe to help me with my arithmetic? Papa—"What good will a microbe do you? Johnnie—"I just read in this paper the they multiply rapidly."—Judge. they multiply rapidly."—Judge.

The Judge—"But, if you tooted your horn, how is it that the plaintiff did not hear you in time to get out of the way!" The Defendant—"I am convinced, your Honor, that the accident was due entirely to the interior velocity of cound."—Brooklyn Life.

"Do you think that the corporation men are going to run the Government." "No." answered Senator Sorghum, "I don't think they will give their time to it so long as corporations pay so much larger aliries than the Government."—Washington Star.